

Greetings FHI Stakeholders!

See below for updates, announcements and save the dates from the Family Homelessness Initiative.

INITIATIVE NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

CHANGE MANAGEMENT LEARNING RETREAT

Several CEH staff and community partners had the opportunity to attend a tri-county retreat last week hosted by Building Changes and the Gates Foundation. The King County delegates developed a set of action-steps directly related to the work of FHI. The King County delegates included: Mark Putnam, Debbi Knowles, Triina Tennelo and Michelle Valdez (CEH), Janet Salm (King County), Jason Johnson (City of Seattle HSD), Merina Hanson (City of Kent), Lauren McGowan (United Way), and Lisa Wolters (Seattle Housing Authority and the co-chair of the FHI Advisory Group) -

"I recently had the opportunity to attend a two-day Change Management retreat sponsored by Building Changes. The retreat was with a small group of tri-county leaders working on family homelessness issues. I wanted to share how inspiring and thought-provoking the two days were for me. I was familiar with change management, the approach to transitioning individuals, teams, and organizations to a desired future goal but the opportunity to apply the principles to such an important goal of making family homelessness Rare, Brief and One Time was time well spent. It was exciting to learn more about the process of change for people and organizations, and to spend time working with colleagues to apply that process to the challenges and opportunities we are facing right now. So much of what I learned felt directly applicable to the work of the FHI Advisory Group, and I look forward to sharing with the Advisory Group at our next meeting more about what I learned." **Lisa Wolters**

FHI ADVISORY GROUP – NEWS & UPDATES:

The new FHI Advisory Group held its second meeting September 9. They revisited the Vision for the group (discussed at their first meeting) and discussed 'What will success look like in a year from now?' The group identified challenges and recommended solutions. Themes included: being inclusionary (with providers, special populations, mainstream systems, etc.), collaboration, evaluation (data and learning opportunities), and taking risks. They also discussed and affirmed the CoC Level Performance Targets for family programs. The CEA Refinement recommendations (see article below) will be vetted through the Advisory Group at their December meeting. Visit the FHI website for information on the Charter, membership roster, meeting agendas and meeting summaries.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES - NEWS & UPDATES:

System Realignment Work

FHI staff and local funders are meeting with the first group of agencies participating in realignment. This next phase of work, the project analysis process, includes a series of actions aimed to:

- 1) Analyze each project's funding and capital investments to determine where opportunities and barriers to realignment exist;
- 2) Identify the permanent housing model to which each agency will realign (agencies may determine more than one model is preferred);
- 3) Assess the viability of a project's realignment; and
- 4) Identify policy and regulatory barriers to realignment informing coordination needed with local, state, and/or federal funding partners.

If you are interested in learning more about System Realignment, please visit the [FHI website](#).

Coordinated Entry Updates

Katharine Gale, our CEA system consultant, completed her second site visit to King County this week. During this visit she was able to meet with a variety of community stakeholders, including individual meetings with seven homeless housing providers, three small group meetings with organizations serving specialized populations (survivors of domestic violence, Immigrant/Refugees, families involved with the court system), as well as two focus groups with clients (families who are currently on the FHC placement roster and families who have been placed in housing programs through FHC).

Her next formal site-visit will be the first week of November and will include a meeting with the CEH Funders Group as well as a larger community forum. More information on the community forum will be sent (and available on our website) as soon as the details are confirmed.

If you have any questions about the process, please feel to contact Michelle Valdez at michelle.valdez@cehkc.org.

OTHER NEWS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING FUNDING OR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Washington Low Income Housing Alliance 2015 Conference – Call for Workshop Proposals

Attached please find a workshop proposal form for the Housing Alliance's 25th Annual Conference on Ending Homelessness. The Conference will be held in Tacoma, WA on May 13 and 14, 2015. Workshop proposals should be returned to Kate Baber (kateb@wliha.org) by Friday, October 31, 2014.

Webinar - Working with Landlords: Engagement, Fair Housing/Landlord Tenant Law, and the Balance of Both

November 19, 2014 (10:00AM – 12:00PM)

This webinar is one of a series hosted by Building Changes, in partnership with the Washington State Department of Commerce, and developed for Ending Family Homelessness program partners and providers and Washington Families Fund service grantees to explore key approaches to helping families end their homelessness and stabilize in housing. For more information, contact Emily Mirra at Building Changes, or click [here](#) to be re-directed to their website.

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Atlantic Street Center – Teens as Parents Program

Click here to see information to share with families on the D.A.D.S (Dedicated Accountable Dependable Self-Sufficient) program for young dads hosted by the Atlantic Street Center.

Please Share! Youth Action Plan – Youth Survey

King County wants to hear from youth as it develops a Youth Action Plan. Please spread the word to youth 12-24 years old – this is a chance for young people to tell what issues are of most importance to them and ways they would like to be more engaged with government. Please encourage young people to take a few minutes to fill out the #KCYouthSurvey at <http://bit.ly/1tZCKTC>. The survey will be open from September 17-October 31.

WHAT'S COMING UP

Monthly FHI Stakeholder Information Session - now combined with FHC Feedback Sessions!

The Family Homelessness Initiative staff host monthly information sessions on the 3rd Wednesday of the month to talk with local stakeholders (providers and funders) about the work of the Initiative. This is an opportunity to hear about current projects, what is coming up next, to ask questions and provide input. Also, the FHC Feedback Meetings, which are an opportunity for service providers and partners to

hear updates on new policies/procedures at FHC and to provide FHC with feedback, will directly follow the Info Session each month.

The next FHI Info Session will be held on Wednesday, October 15 from 9:00-10:00am at the 2100 Building (immediately followed by the **FHC Feedback Meeting** from 10:00-11:00am)

Topic: Diversion Pilot – Join in a conversation with Diversion providers to hear about the pilot, hear some initial data, and share success stories.

Contact Triina Tennelo at triina.tennelo@kingcounty.gov or visit the Initiative website for more information on the Info Session or Emily Harris-Shears at EmilyHS@ccsww.org for more information on the FHC Feedback Meetings.

Coalition on Homelessness' Families with Children Committee and the CEH Family Homelessness Initiative join forces for quarterly, co-sponsored meetings on ending family homelessness!

Once each quarter, the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness' Families with Children Committee (FWC) meeting will be co-sponsored with the Family Homelessness Initiative in an effort to expand both group's reach and communities of learning, as well as an opportunity to stay connected and informed. The October FWC meeting will build on earlier meetings, continuing our conversation about the Rapid Re-Housing for Families Pilot to further:

- Understanding of key features of the pilot
- Discussions about how to coordinate and support families who are referred to the pilot (particularly between shelters and RRH providers)

We hope you can be there:

October 22nd, 9:30-11:30am

YWCA - 2820 E. Cherry St.

Lunch & Learn: 2014 National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference

Lunch & Learn opportunity hosted by CEH and open to the public: Monday, October 13, 2014, Noon – 1pm at the Chinook Building, 401 Fifth Ave, room 123 (brown bag event; lunch not provided).

Join a few CEH staff, local funders, and providers who attended the national conference in Washington DC in July to share lessons learned and key takeaways.

CONTACT US

If you have questions about any of the above updates, or if you would like to add any announcements to future monthly emails, you can contact Michelle Valdez at michelle.valdez@cehkc.org.

Visit our website to learn more about the Family Homelessness Initiative or to locate any of the documents referenced in this email at www.kingcounty.gov/familyhomelessness.

Please feel free to contact FHI staff for more information at:

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For more information on the Committee to End Homelessness (CEH) or to see the most recent monthly newsletter, go to the website at www.cehkc.org